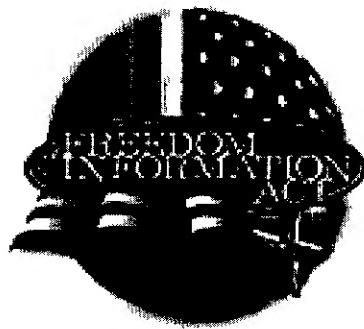




## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT HENREY LEE LUCAS



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SAC, Houston

4/15/81

Director, FBI

UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING-VICTIM  
HOMICIDE  
10/1/79  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION  
(OO: HOUSTON)

Enclosed for Houston are two copies of a psychological profile to be forwarded to [redacted] Harris County Sheriff's Department, Houston, Texas.

b7C

For the information of Houston, on 12/18/80, investigative materials regarding captioned case were sent to the Behavioral Science Unit by Detective [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining a psychological profile.

Recipient law enforcement agency should be advised that the attached analysis is not a substitute for a thorough and well-planned investigation and should not be considered all inclusive. The information provided is based upon reviewing, analyzing, and researching criminal cases similar to the case submitted by the requesting agency. The final analysis is based upon probabilities noting, however, that no two criminal acts or criminal personalities are exactly alike and therefore the offender at times may not always fit the profile in every category.

Houston should maintain periodic contact with appropriate officials to determine and report the extent to which this profile has been of assistance in their investigation. Results are to be furnished to the Training Division, Attention: Behavioral Science Unit.

Enclosures - 2

RRH:khm  
(6) + 1 .

352B-1622-1  
62D-517-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1981	
FBI - QUANTICO	

**Letter to SAC, Houston**

**Re: UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING-VICTIM  
HOMICIDE  
10/1/79  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION  
(OO: HOUSTON)**

Houston is to advise requesting agency that in the future all requests for Training Division assistance should be made through the Houston Field Office.

UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING-VICTIM  
HOMICIDE  
10/1/79  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION  
(OO: HOUSTON)

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ATTACHED ANALYSIS IS  
NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR A THOROUGH AND WELL - PLANNED INVESTI-  
GATION AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED ALL INCLUSIVE. THE  
INFORMATION PROVIDED IS BASED UPON REVIEWING, ANALYZING,  
AND RESEARCHING CRIMINAL CASES SIMILAR TO THE CASE SUB-  
MITTED BY THE REQUESTING AGENCY. THE FINAL ANALYSIS IS  
BASED UPON PROBABILITIES NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT NO TWO  
CRIMINAL ACTS OR CRIMINAL PERSONALITIES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE  
AND THEREFORE THE OFFENDER AT TIMES MAY NOT ALWAYS FIT  
THE PROFILE IN EVERY CATEGORY.

UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING-VICTIM  
HOMICIDE  
10/1/79  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION  
(OO: HOUSTON)

Profile

Age:

23 to 28 years old

Race:

White

Sex:

Male

Victim-Offender Relationship:

b7C

It is the opinion of SA [redacted] that the offender was not known to the victim.

Residence:

The murderer resides within the vicinity of where the victim's automobile was recovered. He lives in rental type property by himself or with another male.

Education:

High school or less. While in high school, he participated in organized athletics and was a disciplinary problem.

Occupation:

Unemployed or employed in a physical labor type of job.

Marital Status:

Single, but has previously been married.

Automobile:

Operates a van or pickup type vehicle.

Arrest History:

Previously arrested and his record will reflect crimes against the person. The offender probably has served time in prison.

Military History:

Discharged other than honorably from military ground forces.

Personality Characteristics:

The offender exhibits a very macho image (dress, vehicle, habits, job) and expresses an intense dislike for homosexuals. He would be described by friends and associates as being a person who enjoys his own company and as having an explosive personality. He enjoys drinking a great deal and spends alot of time in country and western places of entertainment.

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence  
FD-192 (Rev. 5-6-80)

Date

3/6/81

Title and Character of Case

UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING-VICTIM  
HOMICIDE; 10/1/79  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DPC  
(OO: HOUSTON)

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
------------------------	-------------------------------------

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
---------------------------------------	--

Bulky Exhibit Drawer

To Be Returned	Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit	Agent Assigned Case
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		SA [redacted] b7C

Yes    No   Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit  
Case Reports and Photos

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

252B-1622-1B  
63D-519-1

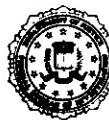
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1981	
FBI QUANTICO	#75

Field File # \_\_\_\_\_

OO \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHAIN OF POSSESSION**

# Memorandum



To DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATTENTION: TRAINING DIVISION  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT)  
From SAC, HOUSTON (62D-3274) (C)

Date 3/23/84

Subject UNSUB;  
RUSSELL CURTIS KING - VICTIM  
HOMICIDE, OCTOBER 1, 1979;  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION  
(OO:HO)

Re Bu let to HO, 4/15/81.

On February 8, 1984, [REDACTED] Special Investigations, Harris County Sheriff's Department, Houston, Texas, advised that captioned case has been solved. According to [REDACTED] has admitted that he and [REDACTED] killed the victims. LUCAS also provided pertinent details which only the murderer would have known.

b7C

LUCAS is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	August 23, 1936
Height	5'9"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Texas driver's license	11076084
Social Security	230-40-9210
FBI number	661 111 B
Scars, marks	Left eye is glass
Tattoos	Unknown description on both arms

[REDACTED] is described as follows:

b7C

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Height	6'2"
Weight	200 pounds

2 - Bureau  
2 - Houston  
(1 - 62D-3274)  
(1 - 62-3221)

LC/lo  
(4)

1\*

b7C

252B-1622-2

62D-5193

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1985	
FBI QUANTICO	

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA, IN AND FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 89-435

VS

HENRY LEE LUCAS,

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF JACKSON

Personally appeared before me, one of the Judges of the abovestyled court and a magistrate under the law of the State of Florida, JOE MITCHELL, a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says under oath:

That I, JOE MITCHELL, am over the age of 18 years, a resident of the State of Florida, emancipated and competent to duly take an oath.

As a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Your Affiant has investigated the death of J. P. McDaniel on December 15, 1980, in Jackson County, Florida. As a result of this investigation, I have found the following:

On December 15, 1980, J. P. McDaniel, the victim in this case, was operating a small gas station on U.S. Highway 231 in the northern part of Jackson County, Florida. In the early morning hours of that date, J. P. McDaniel was robbed and shot in the head with a .25 calibre gun. J. P. McDaniel died as a result of blows to the head by a blunt object and the gunshot wound to the head. The victim was one-armed, and fingernail scrapings from his one hand were sent to the crime laboratory in Tallahassee, Florida. The state crime laboratory examination revealed the presence of one Caucasian body hair in the fingernail scrapings of the victim.

On July 7, 1988, Your Affiant, along with other law enforcement officials, talked with Henry Lee Lucas while Lucas was located in the Texas State Prison in Huntsville, Texas. After voluntarily waiving his rights, Lucas advised Your Affiant and the other officers present that he was involved in the robbery/murder of J. P. McDaniel. Lucas admitted taking part in the shooting and in his statement gave many details which indicate that the confession is accurate. Lucas gave an accurate description of the manner of shooting, the type of service station, the size and appearance of the victim, the property taken, and the time of day that the murder took place. Lucas also indicated that there was a co-defendant in the case by the name of Ottis Elwood Toole, and that there were two small children present during the homicide, but that they did not observe anything.

On September 14, 1988, Your Affiant, along with other law enforcement officials, talked with Ottis Elwood Toole while he was being held at the Holmes County, Florida, jail. Toole voluntarily waived his rights and talked with Your Affiant concerning the death of J. P. McDaniel. Toole advised that he and Henry Lee Lucas were responsible for the robbery and murder of J. P. McDaniel in Jackson County on December 15, 1980. Toole gave the same distinct facts that Lucas gave in his statement, including the method of killing and that children were present. Toole advised that Henry Lee Lucas shot J. P. McDaniel with a .25 calibre automatic pistol. In addition to the .25 calibre bullet

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

which was removed from the head of J. P. McDaniel, a spent .25 calibre cartridge was found at the scene, indicating that an automatic pistol was, in fact, used

Toole and Lucas have been separately incarcerated for over six years, and, therefore, have not had any conversation with each other. Your Affiant has fully investigated the background of this case and, based upon this investigation, Your Affiant believes and has reason to believe, that HENRY LEE LUCAS has given admission about details of this crime that only the killer could have known. Your Affiant further believes and has reason to believe that HENRY LEE LUCAS is guilty of the crime of First Degree Murder involving the death of J. P. McDaniel in Jackson County, Florida, on December 15, 1980.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, a criminal case was filed in the State Attorney's Office, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Jackson County, Florida. The fugitive, HENRY LEE LUCAS, presently stands charged with the following felony:

FIRST DEGREE MURDER  
Florida Statute No. 782.04

and he is, to the best knowledge of your affiant, a fugitive from the State of Florida.

AFFIANT makes this Affidavit in support of the Information/Warrant in Case No. \_\_\_\_\_, in aid of the extradition of the aforesaid defendant, HENRY LEE LUCAS.

(AFFIANT)

Sworn to and subscribed before

me this 19 day of May,  
1989.

Robert L. McCrary, Jr.  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, I hereby find there is probable cause to believe that such offense was committed and that the accused committed it.

Robert L. McCrary, Jr.  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY.

DAUN CREWS  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT  
JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
By Josephine A. D.C.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY.

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 89-85CF

VS.

HENRY LEE LUCAS,

Defendant.

---

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HOLMES

Personally appeared before me, one of the Judges of the abovestyled court and a magistrate under the law of the State of Florida, Thomas E. Baxter, an investigator with the State Attorney's Office, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says under oath:

That I, Thomas E. Baxter, am over the age of 18 years, a resident of the State of Florida, emancipated and competent to duly take an oath.

As an investigator with the State Attorney's Office, Your Affiant has assisted in the investigation of the death of Jerilyn Murphy Peoples on February 10, 1981, in Holmes County, Florida. As a result of this investigation, I have found the following:

On February 10, 1981, Jerilyn Murphy Peoples, the victim in this case, was returning home from a day's work and a trip to the grocery store. Jerilyn Murphy Peoples entered her home in Holmes County, Florida, carrying two bags of groceries. Jerilyn Murphy Peoples died as a result of a .22 caliber gunshot wound to her head. The home had been forcibly entered through a previously broken window at the rear of the house. Jerilyn Murphy Peoples was dragged from her home and put into the right front passenger seat of a 1968 Chrysler automobile after being shot, and left there to be found by her husband, Broward Peoples, Jr.

On July 7, 1988, Joe Mitchell, a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, talked with Henry Lee Lucas while Lucas was located in the Texas State Prison in Huntsville, Texas. Lucas advised Joe Mitchell that he, Lucas, was involved in the murder of Jerilyn Murphy Peoples. Lucas admitted that he participated in the burglary of Jerilyn Murphy Peoples' home, which was a brick house in the country with pines around it. Lucas advised that he and Ottis Elwood Toole and two small children had gotten off a train and walked to the Peoples home.

On June 30, 1988, Joe Mitchell took a sworn statement from Frank Powell III, who advised that he was present during the burglary of the Peoples home. Powell further stated that Lucas and Toole are responsible for Peoples' death inasmuch as Peoples surprised Lucas and Toole during the burglary.

On June 7, 1988, Joe Mitchell talked to Ottis Elwood Toole and Toole advised that Peoples was carrying bags of groceries and that she was shot with a rifle, thereby taking responsibility for her death along with Lucas. Toole also verified that Powell was present when this occurred.

SWORN TO AND SIGNED IN OPEN COURT  
THIS 10TH DAY OF JULY, 1988  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY.  
S. Holmes County, Florida  
R. G. Gandy, Clerk, D.C.

Toole and Lucas have been separately incarcerated for over six years, and, therefore, have not had any conversation with each other. Your Affiant has investigated the background of this case and, based upon this investigation, Your Affiant believes and has reason to believe, that HENRY LEE LUCAS has given admission about details of this crime that only the killer could have known. Your Affiant further believes and has reason to believe that HENRY LEE LUCAS is guilty of the crime of First Degree Murder involving the death of Jerilyn Murphy Peoples in Holmes County, Florida, on February 10, 1981.

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, a criminal case was filed in the State Attorney's Office, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Holmes County, Florida. The fugitive, HENRY LEE LUCAS, presently stands charged with the following felony:

FIRST DEGREE MURDER  
Florida Statute No. 782.04

and he is, to the best knowledge of Your Affiant, a fugitive from the State of Florida.

AFFIANT makes this Affidavit in support of the Information/Warrant in Case No. 89-85CF, in aid of the extradition of the aforesaid defendant, HENRY LEE LUCAS.

Thomas E. Payton  
(AFFIANT)

Sworn to and subscribed before

me this 17 day of May,

1989.

Clerk  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, I hereby find there is probable cause to believe that such offense was committed and that the accused committed it.

Clerk  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit  
Holmes County, Florida  
Elizabeth C. Conrad Jr.

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HOLMES

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing are true and correct copies of the Warrants of Arrest for HENRY LEE LUCAS, for the offense of FIRST DEGREE MURDER as filed in my office.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the City of Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1989.

  
CLERK OF COURT  
HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HOLMES

I, Clinton Foster, Judge of the Circuit Court, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, in and for Holmes County, Florida, DO CERTIFY that Cody Taylor, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing certificate and attestation is the duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Court in and for Holmes County, Florida, and that the said certificate and attestation are in due form and made by the proper officer, and that full faith and credit are due and ought to be given to all of the official acts of said Clerk, as well in courts of judicature as elsewhere.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida, this 17 day of May, 1989.

  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HOLMES

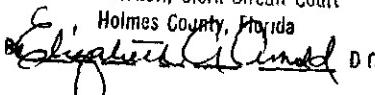
I, CODY TAYLOR, Clerk of the Court, in and for Holmes County, Florida, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the Honorable Clinton Foster, a Judge of the Circuit Court, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Holmes County, Florida, is duly commissioned, qualified and acting and that the signature to the foregoing certificate and attestation is genuine and in his own proper handwriting and that full faith and credit are due and ought to be given to all of his official acts as well in courts of judicature as elsewhere.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said court to be affixed, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1989.

  
CLERK OF COURT  
HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

CODY TAYLOR, Clerk Circuit Court

  
Holmes County, Florida  
Sergeant-at-Arms D.C.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF  
FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY.

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 89-84CF

VS.

HENRY LEE LUCAS,

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HOLMES

Personally appeared before me, one of the Judges of the abovestyled court and a magistrate under the law of the State of Florida, Thomas E. Baxter, an investigator with the State Attorney's Office, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says under oath:

That I, Thomas E. Baxter, am over the age of 18 years, a resident of the State of Florida, emancipated and competent to duly take an oath.

As an investigator with the State Attorney's Office, Your Affiant has assisted in the investigation of the death of Brenda Jo Burton on March 25, 1981, in Holmes County, Florida. As a result of this investigation, I have found the following:

On March 25, 1981, Brenda Jo Burton, the victim in this case, was at her home located at 401 North Hubbard Street, Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida, when she was strangled and stabbed to death with a butcher knife. There was no forced entry to the Burton home. The house is a white frame house with a fence surrounding the rear portion with some dogs inside the fenced area.

On July 7, 1988, Joe Mitchell, a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, talked with Henry Lee Lucas at the Texas State Prison in Huntsville, Texas. Lucas stated that he was responsible for the burglary and the murder of Brenda Jo Burton.

On September 14, 1988, Ottis Elwood Toole voluntarily gave a statement to Special Agent Joe Mitchell. Toole advised that he, Henry Lee Lucas, and two small children arrived in Bonifay, Florida, one night and stayed that night in the truck. The next day the two small children were sent to the Burton home for the purpose of gaining entry under the pretense of needing food. The children gained entry and Lucas and Toole then entered the Burton house and applied the night chain on the door. A woman, approximately thirty years of age, with long hair, was present and became very upset. Henry Lee Lucas grabbed Brenda Jo Burton and choked her with the telephone cord. Lucas then got a knife from the kitchen and dragged Burton into the bathroom and stabbed Burton with the knife. They then exited out the rear of the house where some dogs were in the yard.

Toole and Lucas have been separately incarcerated for over six years, and, therefore, have not had any conversation with each other. Your Affiant has investigated the background of this case and, based upon this investigation, Your Affiant believes and has reason to believe, that HENRY LEE LUCAS has given admission about details of this crime that only the killer could have known. Your Affiant further believes and has reason to believe that HENRY LEE LUCAS is guilty of the crime of First Degree Murder involving the death of Brenda Jo Burton in Holmes County, Florida, on March 25, 1981.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY

CODY TAYLOR, Clerk Circuit Court

, Holmes County, Florida

*Elizabeth C. Clark*

BASED ON THE FOREGOING, a criminal case was filed in the State Attorney's Office, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Holmes County, Florida. The fugitive, HENRY LEE LUCAS, presently stands charged with the following felony:

FIRST DEGREE MURDER  
Florida Statute No. 782.04

and he is, to the best knowledge of Your Affiant, a fugitive from the State of Florida.

AFFIANT makes this Affidavit in support of the Information/Warrant in Case No. 89-84CF, in aid of the extradition of the aforesaid defendant, HENRY LEE LUCAS.

P. E. Parks  
(AFFIANT)

Sworn to and subscribed before

me this 17 day of May,  
1989.

Circuit Judge  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, I hereby find there is probable cause to believe that such offense was committed and that the accused committed it.

Circuit Judge  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

2528-1622-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>JK</i>	FILED <i>JK</i>
AUG 06 1991	
FBI - PORTLAND	

*[Signature]*

# Lies of a Serial Killer

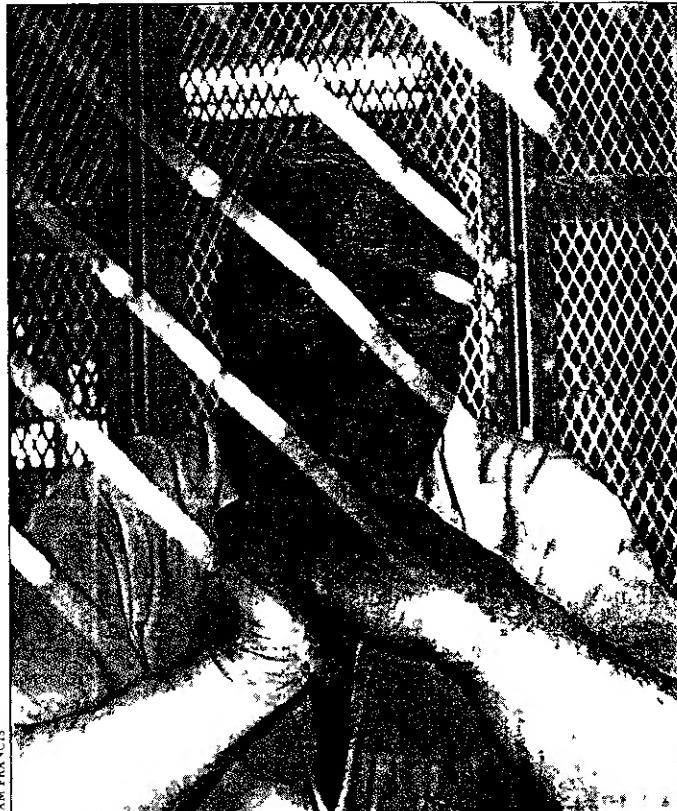
A Texas murderer may be executed this month for the wrong crime. Can we live with that?

By DANIEL PEDERSEN

**F**IRST HENRY LEE LUCAS confessed to strangling his traveling companion, 15-year-old Becky Powell, and burying her in a field. The one-eyed drifter's next admission was grislier. He said he stabbed 82-year-old Kate Rich to death, had sex with her, lugged the body home, cut it to pieces and burned it in a wood stove behind his cabin in Texas. The shocks were just beginning. Arraigned for her murder in 1983, Lucas told a packed courtroom "I killed Kate Rich, and at least a hundred more." He gave bigger death counts later, some precise, some rounded up 157 in all, no, 200, 231, 600. He said he'd killed women in 27 states with nylon rope, a phone cord, 22s, 38s, 357 magnums, rifles, knives, statues, vases, a hammer, a roofer's ax and a two by four.

He made most of it up. But lawmen didn't know that until well after they'd jetted him cross-country and put him up in motels, feeding him steaks and information in the hopes of clearing cases from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico. Looking back, it's hard to know which was more fantastic—Lucas's ghoulish imagination, or that people well beyond Texas believed him for more than a year to be the world's most prolific serial killer.

Now, time for such judgments is short. Thirteen years after his remarkable confession spree ended, Lucas, 61, is likely to become the last victim of his own hoax. Texas authorities plan to execute him on June 30 for the murder of an unknown hitchhiker nicknamed Orange Socks (the only clothes she was wearing when her body was found on I-35 just north of Austin in 1979). Of Lucas's 11 murder convictions, Orange Socks is the only one for which he received the death penalty. (By his own recanted confession, he kidnapped and raped her too.) It's also the direst of the 11, the case in which there's the most independent evidence that Lucas didn't commit the crime. "I can accept death," he told NEWSWEEK in an ex-



**Lucas on death row** 'Nobody's going to shed a tear for him'

clusive death-row interview earlier this month. "I just can't accept it for somebody else's crime."

The odds are that the state of Texas will harbor no such qualms. "If anybody deserves to die for something he didn't do, I've never met a better candidate than Henry," says Phil Ryan, the Texas Ranger who arrested him. Lucas was born in Blacksburg, Va., in 1936, the son of a prostitute and a double amputee. Even in recantation mode, he admits he "probably killed Mom" in a drunken fight. He served most of a 20-year sentence for that murder, was released in 1975 and worked as an itinerant roofer until his 1983 arrest after two friends, the elderly Rich and teenage Powell, disappeared. Lucas says he began confessing because he was kept in a frigid jail cell and wanted to get revenge on law officers everywhere. "I set out to get 'em, to make 'em look like fools." To this day, 214 homicides—half in Texas, the rest in 22

other states from California to Florida—have been marked closed, many on scant proof beyond Lucas's word. A few were reopened after it became clear Lucas would have had to drive 11,000 miles in 30 days (he owned a 13-year-old Ford) to kill everyone he said he did in 1978. Most investigators let sleeping victims lie. What became of the real killers is anyone's guess.

So is Lucas's actual tally of victims. Ex-

Ranger Wise puts it at 15. Former Texas attorney general Jim Mattox puts it at three—Powell, Rich and Lucas's mother. Mattox believes work and bank records prove Lucas was 1,000 miles away the day Orange Socks died. Lucas's impending death, Mattox says, goes against our legal principles. "I'm less concerned for Henry than for our system of justice."

So far, Mattox stands almost alone. Unlike the execution of Karla Faye Tucker, the media-geneic born-again pickax murderer put to death in February, Lucas's condemnation has generated few second thoughts, no letters from the pope or the European Parliament. Nobody's going to shed a tear for him," says Texas anti-death penalty activist Jimmy Dunne.

Maybe not even Lucas. His gentle Virginian voice remains softer than his attitude—he says he's laughing at the world. "I lived like a king," he told NEWSWEEK, recalling the perks of his two-year charade—the restaurant meals, the booze, the motorcades of

lawmen and journalists who joined his trips to murder scenes. "I'm payin' for it now, but I lived it." His sparsely furnished cell sits five feet from a hallway TV spitting out the Andy Griffith show. He's spent 13 years painting landscapes, working in the clothing factory and growing fat on prison food he says he wouldn't feed to his hogs. His whole face has grown as fleshy as the lid over his glass eye.

Lucas's legacy won't just be a grim joke, however. Even critics like Mattox admit Texas authorities have grown more rigorous in corroborating confessions. And the FBI says its computerized Violent Criminal Apprehension Program, inspired by Lucas, has improved cooperation across state lines. Whatever the aftermath, Lucas is calm. "I feel I'll go to God when I leave here," says Lucas. "I feel he has a place for me." Families of Lucas's falsely claimed victims can be forgiven for having their own ideas what that place should be. ■

File  
252B-1622  
6-17-98  
BN